

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display (LCD) module comprising a transparent front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area ~~extending from~~ not opposing said rear panel that extends entirely around said central area, said transparent front panel acting as an overcoat for protecting said LC layer and said rear panel against a reasonable external force.

2. (currently amended) ~~The LCD module as defined in claim 1~~ A liquid crystal display (LCD) module comprising a transparent front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area extending from said central area, said transparent front panel acting as an overcoat for protecting said LC layer and said rear panel against a reasonable external force,

wherein said peripheral area has a plurality of holes for receiving screws.

3. (currently amended) ~~The LCD module as defined in claim~~  
± A liquid crystal display (LCD) module comprising a transparent front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area extending from said central area, said transparent front panel acting as an overcoat for protecting said LC layer and said rear panel against a reasonable external force,

wherein said peripheral area includes a pair of flange portions extending from said central area.

4. (currently amended) ~~The LCD module as defined in claim~~  
± A liquid crystal display (LCD) module comprising a transparent front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area extending from said central area, said transparent front panel acting as an overcoat for protecting said LC layer and said rear panel against a reasonable external force, wherein said central area has a thickness larger than a thickness of said peripheral area, whereby a step is formed in a vicinity of a boundary between said central area and said peripheral area.

5. (currently amended) ~~The LCD module as defined in claim~~  
± A liquid crystal display (LCD) module comprising a transparent

front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area extending from said central area, said transparent front panel acting as an overcoat for protecting said LC layer and said rear panel against a reasonable external force,

wherein said transparent front panel comprises a first portion having a thickness substantially equal to a thickness of said rear panel, and ~~[[an]]~~ a second portion covering said first portion.

6-9. (canceled)

10. (new) The LCD module according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral area has a plurality of holes for receiving screws.

11. (new) The LCD module according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral area includes a pair of flange portions extending from said central area.

12. (new) The LCD module according to claim 1, wherein said central area has a thickness larger than a thickness of said peripheral area, whereby a step is formed in a vicinity of a boundary between said central area and said peripheral area.

13. (new) The LCD module according to claim 1, wherein said transparent front panel comprises a first portion having a thickness substantially equal to a thickness of said rear panel, and a second portion covering said first portion.

14. (new) The LCD module according to claim 2, wherein said peripheral area includes a pair of flange portions extending from said central area.

15. (new) The LCD module according to claim 2, wherein said central area has a thickness larger than a thickness of said peripheral area, whereby a step is formed in a vicinity of a boundary between said central area and said peripheral area.

16. (new) The LCD module according to claim 2, wherein said transparent front panel comprises a first portion having a thickness substantially equal to a thickness of said rear panel, and a second portion covering said first portion.

17. (new) The LCD module according to claim 3, wherein said central area has a thickness larger than a thickness of said peripheral area, whereby a step is formed in a vicinity of a boundary between said central area and said peripheral area.

18. (new) The LCD module according to claim 3, wherein said transparent front panel comprises a first portion having a thickness substantially equal to a thickness of said rear panel, and a second portion covering said first portion.